

Partnerships for Stewardship

January, 2009



PARTNERS

- USDA Forest Service (USFS)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- USDI Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
- Washington Department of Ecology (ECY)
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Washington Rangeland Committee (WRC)
- Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)
- Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- WSU Extension
- WWCC Collaborative Leadership Institute

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Annual Tour Shows Community-Based Approach Works in Southwest WA Watersheds

This year's Annual Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Tour was held October 16 in tributaries of the Columbia River in southwest Washington.

Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Conservation Districts have used the CRM process successfully in several local watersheds to reduce bank erosion, improve water quality and fish habitat, and meet other local goals.

Just before departing on the tour, Conservation District Manager Darin Houpt presented a slideshow reviewing the CRM process used to involve landowners from watershed communities in restoration work. Then, a busload of folks spent the rest of the day looking at the on-the-ground results in watersheds west of Kelso.



Tour group spots salmon beneath new bridge

At the first stop, the group saw first-hand evidence of improved fish access as a large salmon was spotted underneath a bridge, which had been installed by the landowner with the help of the Conservation District to replace a culvert that was a fish barrier. The group joked that the salmon had been tethered there just for the tour.

Conservation Districts have been using CRM for a couple of decades in this part of Washington, even though it was originally developed in the dry, more expansive landscapes of eastern Oregon and Washington. CRM promotes a voluntary, locally-led approach that relies on consensus and teamwork among stakeholders.

For more info about the tour and watershed restoration, contact Cowlitz & Wahkiakum CDs at (360) 425-1880.

CRM Program Offers New Training Workshops in 2009

As you make your plans for 2009, resolve to take part in one or more of several seminars that will be offered by the CRM Task Group this year. CRM Program workshops are very reasonable in cost, which is important in today's economy, and taught by a cadre of capable, experienced instructors.

A round of workshops will be offered in the spring giving folks an opportunity to acquire or brush up on their facilitation skills. This training prepares participants to design and carry out meetings they facilitate plus handle difficulties that arise.

Sessions of Coordinated Resource Management training will be offered along with the facilitation training. People can choose to attend either CRM or Facilitation or both workshops for a discount. Training in CRM benefits anyone involved in a collaborative planning process, partnership, or team.

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WASHINGTON COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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The CRM Task Group will shift gears somewhat in the last half of 2009 to concentrate on training in grant writing and monitoring. Workshops will be offered around the state beginning in the summer.



Facilitation seminar participants try on new hats

Monitoring workshops will provide very practical, hands-on training to help participants detect natural resource changes and evaluate their management practices. Participants will spend time in class and in the field learning how to track important indicators of forest, range, and riparian health.

Given the current economic downturn, grant writing is a timely topic. Participants in these workshops will not only learn about successful grant-writing but will draft a grant proposal to fund a project of their choice.

The goal of the CRM Task Group is to provide inexpensive, practical training so that individuals and groups are more effective in the use and conservation of Washington's natural resources. If you are interested in having one of the workshops mentioned above in your area, please contact a CRM Task Group member or Ken Mills at (509) 754-2463, ext. 1133 or kmills@crmWASHINGTON.org.

FATHER OF CRM IN WASHINGTON PASSES AWAY

The conservation and agricultural community throughout Washington was deeply saddened on October 25 when Norm McClure passed away.

Norm provided what would amount to several lifetimes of volunteer service for most people. He served on the Okanogan Conservation District Board for over 40 years and on the CRM Task Group for decades (no one is really sure how long.) And, maybe more importantly, he practiced what he preached in range management on his own ranch.

Norm's reputation in CRM circles was such that many people might be surprised to learn that he did not invent CRM, but it is very unlikely that anyone would begrudge him the title of Father of CRM in Washington. He will be greatly missed.



"A unique feature of CRM is that it engages land owners and managers from 'day one' in the pivotal role of identifying problems and in crafting site-specific solutions for the land they know so well."
Norm McClure, 1929-2008

SURVEY SHOWS CRM GROUPS HAVE MANY NEEDS

The CRM Task Group took an inventory of over one hundred CRM type groups during 2008 in order to better address their needs. Most of the groups inventoried were traditional CRM groups but many Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA), watersheds, and similar collaborative groups were included.

Nearly 80% of the groups felt that they needed outside resources to address needs in order to be more successful. Over half of the groups expressed needs that were in the categories of facilitation, implementation, or of a technical nature. Needs that were administrative, developmental, or plan-related were less common.

	Trad CRM	CWMA	Other
Administrative	low	low	high
Developmental	low	low	none
Facilitation	high	low	high
Implementation	medium	high	high
Planning	low	medium	none
Technical	high	low	high

Levels of needs varied by the type of group (see chart). For example, traditional CRM groups expressed a high desire for technical help such as monitoring; CWMA's were looking for implementation dollars; and other groups, including watersheds, seemed to have high needs in several categories.

The CRM Task Group plans on using results of the survey to better address needs of collaborative groups around the state. Contact Ken Mills (kmills@crmWASHINGTON.org) for more information about the study.